

ECDC: Economic & Community Development Committee

Tuesday June 1st, 2021, 5:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Don Griffin, Phil Lehmann, Rick McCanse, and Terry Schuster.

Absent: Erin Folk, Rebecca Hazzard, Tom Mahoney, and Liz Vos.

Also, present: Darin DeHaan, Chris Manheim, Mayor-Ken Williams, Cheryl Hilton, and Ben Yonin.

Don Griffin called the meeting to order and called roll at 5:02 pm.

Phil Lehmann moved to approve Minutes from May 4th, 2021, Seconded by Rick McCanse.

Motion carried. No nays.

ECDC Budget Report: Terry Schuster reported the ECDC fund has a balance of approximately \$32,000.00. The CMAAA director's salary is also unknown currently, but the city is responsible for 25% of the cost. He also stated the TIF fund will see a revenue increase to \$211,000.00.

Broadband Progress: Don Griffin invited Ben Yonin to speak to the committee regarding broadband. The county is looking to create a committee to start enhancing broadband coverage for Ogle County. Ben said many people will be working from home in the new post covid world and we need to connect as many residents as possible. He also stated that Starlink is meant for sparsely populated areas and is expensive. He also said fiber will be expensive to rural areas and the goal is to be trendsetting. State and Federal grants are being investigated and using existing infrastructure to lower costs.

Retail Economic Development Incentives: Mayor Ken Williams said the City Council approved a TIF incentive program. The Commercial Lease Subsidy Grant will provide a new retail business the opportunity to have a portion of their lease paid for by the grant. The program is very competitive and is limited to the Riverfront and Historic Districts. A press release and letters to owners of available properties are going out this week.

Consulting Services: Chris Manheim met with Nathan Fox who is a project manager with the IEPA to discuss the progress of the Dayton Superior study. He is continuing to work on the Develop Oregon website and a media release for the residents.

Housing Development: Mayor Ken Williams updated the committee on Hvarre Development. The housing development is moving forward, and the builders are happy with the progress. The TIF consultants are working on a formal agreement.

Riverfront: Terry Schuster said Willett Hofmann has been working on the Riverwalk path and they have been in contact with the Oregon Fire District.

ECDC Goals/Other Business: Don Griffin asked the committee to share any ideas of upcoming events or projects that can be shared with residents. He also presented the County Campus plan for the area where the old jail is located. This includes additional parking and more green space. The Iron Mike project should be finishing up within the next month. He also stated the bill for the nuclear plant did not pass. Darin DeHaan discussed the walkability audit. Some recommendations included a sidewalk from Park West to the elementary school as well as a safer street crossing at Mix Park. Phil Lehmann said there is still a shortage in the housing market.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton